ORDER LEPIDOPTERA

SUBORDER RHOPALOCERA

(BUTTERFLIES)

FAMILY I

NYMPHALID^E (THE BRUSH-FOOTED BUTTERFLIES)

THE family of the Nymphalidae is composed of butterflies which are of medium and large size, though a few of the genera are made up of species which are quite small. They may be distinguished from all other butterflies by the fact that the first pair of legs in both sexes is atrophied or greatly reduced in size, so that they cannot be used in walking, but are carried folded up upon the breast. The fore feet, except fn the case of the female of the snout-butterflies (Libytheinae), are without tarsal claws, and hence the name " Brush-footed Butterflies " has been applied to them. As the anterior pair of legs is apparently useless, they have been called "The Four-footed Butterflies/" which is scientifically a misnomer.

Egg.—The eggs of the Nymphalidse, for the most part, are dome-shaped or globular, and are marked with raised longitudinal lines extending from the summit toward the base over the entire surface or over the upper portion of the egg. Between these elevations are often found finer and less elevated cross-lines. In a few genera the surface of the eggs is covered with reticulations arranged in geometrical patterns (see Fig. 1).

Caterpillar.—The caterpillars of the Nymphalidae, as they emerge from the egg, have heads the diameter of which is larger than that of the body, and covered with a number of wart-like